

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (currently amended): A hinged door frame spreader device for maintaining a pair of door frame sides spaced apart a desired distance during installation of a door frame structure, the door frame spreader device comprising:

a first board and a second board hinged together in longitudinal linear alignment
5 by a pivotable hinge connecting two inner edges of the boards to form a hinged door frame spreader board for horizontal placement at a bottom of a door frame to space two vertical sides of a door frame apart the same distance as a horizontal top of a door frame during installation of a door frame in a structure, each of the boards having an outer edge shape to conform to an inside profile of a side of a vertical door frame member aligned
10 for installation to a wall structure, the hinged door frame spreader board having a pre-set length to provide a desired spreader distance between a pair of sides of a door frame equal to the length of the hinged door frame spreader board, the hinged door frame spreader board ~~adapted for being pivoted~~ being pivotable into an angled configuration to position the hinged door frame spreader board between a pair of vertical sides of a door
15 frame and the hinged door frame spreader board further ~~adapted for being pivoted~~ being pivotable into a straight linear configuration to contact a bottom of each of a pair of vertical sides of a door frame and maintain a pair of sides of a bottom of a door frame spaced apart by the length of the hinged door frame spreader board while installing a door frame in a wall structure to create an installed frame which matches a door to be
20 installed on the frame.

2. (original): The frame spreader device of claim 1 further comprising at least one additional pre-set length add-on section hinged by a pivotable hinge to at least one of the ends of the hinged frame spreader board, the at least one add-on section
25 adapted for being unfolded into a straight position aligned with the straightened position of the hinged frame spreader board and extending from the at least one end in linear alignment with the hinged frame spreader board to form a longer hinged frame spreader board and adapted for being pivoted into a folded over position onto the spreader board for a shorter hinged frame spreader board to fit between a variety of differently spaced
30 frame sides.

3. (original): The frame spreader device of claim 2 wherein the at least one add-on section has an outer edge shape to conform to an inside profile of a side of a frame member aligned for installation to a wall structure to insure a precision fit for an
35 exact spreader distance and the at least one add-on section has an inner edge shape to conform to the at least one outer edge shape of the hinged frame spreader board in the folded over position.

4. (original): The frame spreader device of claim 1 wherein the first
40 board comprises an elongated board having a smooth inner edge and the second board comprises a short board having a mating smooth inner edge, the two boards interconnecting along the smooth edges by a hinged connection.

5. (original): The frame spreader device of claim 4 wherein each of the
45 outer edges of the two boards comprises an end face having a recessed center opening
adapted for receiving a door stop therein and the first board is equal in length to a
distance between a pair of inner faces of a pair of door stops on a pair of sides of a frame
and the second board is equal in length to a double thickness of a door stop, so that the
frame spreader device is adapted for alternately being positioned in a first position with
50 the add-on section in linear alignment with the first board with a door stop fitting within
each of the recessed center openings and in a second position with the add-on section
pivoted on top of the first board with the end faces contacting the inner faces of the pair
of door stops for a pair of wider door stops which do not fit in the recessed center
openings.

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6. (original): The frame spreader device of claim 1 further comprising at
least one elevating member on each of the boards adapted for accommodating the
thickness of the hinge.

60 7. (new): A hinged frame spreader device for maintaining a pair of frame
sides spaced apart a desired distance during installation of a frame structure, the frame
spreader device comprising:

a first board and a second board hinged together in longitudinal linear alignment
by a pivotable hinge connecting two inner edges of the boards to form a hinged frame
65 spreader board, each of the boards having an outer edge shape to conform to an inside
profile of a side of a frame member aligned for installation to a wall structure, the hinged

frame spreader board having a pre-set length to provide a desired spreader distance between a pair of sides of a frame equal to the length of the hinged frame spreader board, the hinged frame spreader board adapted for being pivoted into an angled configuration
70 to position the hinged frame spreader board between a pair of sides of a frame and the hinged frame spreader board further adapted for being pivoted into a straight linear configuration to contact a pair of sides of a frame and maintain a pair of sides of a frame spaced apart by the length of the hinged frame spreader board while installing a frame in a wall structure; and
75 at least one additional pre-set length add-on section hinged by a pivotable hinge to at least one of the ends of the hinged frame spreader board, the at least one add-on section adapted for being unfolded into a straight position aligned with the straightened position of the hinged frame spreader board and extending from the at least one end in linear alignment with the hinged frame spreader board to form a longer hinged frame spreader
80 board and adapted for being pivoted into a folded over position onto the spreader board for a shorter hinged frame spreader board to fit between a variety of differently spaced frame sides.

8. (new): A hinged frame spreader device for maintaining a pair of frame
85 sides spaced apart a desired distance during installation of a frame structure, the frame spreader device comprising:

a first board and a second board hinged together in longitudinal linear alignment by a pivotable hinge connecting two inner edges of the boards to form a hinged frame spreader board, each of the boards having an outer edge shape to conform to an inside

90 profile of a side of a frame member aligned for installation to a wall structure, the hinged
frame spreader board having a pre-set length to provide a desired spreader distance
between a pair of sides of a frame equal to the length of the hinged frame spreader board,
the hinged frame spreader board adapted for being pivoted into an angled configuration
to position the hinged frame spreader board between a pair of sides of a frame and the
95 hinged frame spreader board further adapted for being pivoted into a straight linear
configuration to contact a pair of sides of a frame and maintain a pair of sides of a frame
spaced apart by the length of the hinged frame spreader board while installing a frame in
a wall structure;

wherein the first board comprises an elongated board having a smooth inner edge
100 and the second board comprises a short board having a mating smooth inner edge, the
two boards interconnecting along the smooth edges by a hinged connection; and

wherein each of the outer edges of the two boards comprises an end face having a
recessed center opening adapted for receiving a door stop therein and the first board is
equal in length to a distance between a pair of inner faces of a pair of door stops on a pair
105 of sides of a frame and the second board is equal in length to a double thickness of a door
stop, so that the frame spreader device is adapted for alternately being positioned in a first
position with the add-on section in linear alignment with the first board with a door stop
fitting within each of the recessed center openings and in a second position with the add-
on section pivoted on top of the first board with the end faces contacting the inner faces
110 of the pair of door stops for a pair of wider door stops which do not fit in the recessed
center openings.